



Alaska Workforce Investment Board Newsletter

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Important Dates

November 17 - 18

Alaska Resources Conference in Anchorage

Web Sites of Interest

[AWIB CTE](#)
[EED CTE](#)
[UA Workforce Programs](#)

Dear Reader,

In this issue we have the following articles: Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Update; Board of Regents Approve the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan; AK Performance Scholarship Update; AK Tech Prep; Youth Council and Workforce Investment Act; Gasline Training Update; and Growing Our Own Educators Through UA Program.

The AWIB has developed this newsletter to connect schools, industry and stakeholders with the AWIB and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. We are publishing every other month and featuring opportunities, programs and information about State of Alaska initiatives aimed at helping youth and adults find meaningful employment and postsecondary training. Also, the newsletter will have articles from the Department of Education and Early Development related to Career and Technical Education.

Please let me know if you have ideas for future articles. The next newsletter will be published in January 2011.

Sincerely,



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AWIB Career Technical Education Coordinator
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AWIB Update

Greg Cashen, Executive Director



The Alaska CTE Plan was published in August, 2010 and distributed to the DOLWD, DEED, University of Alaska, AVTEC, and school districts statewide. The AWIB, State Board of Education, and University of Alaska Board of Regents approved the Alaska CTE Plan and support implementation of the strategies contained in the Plan. The Plan identifies strategies and key action steps for implementation, a timeline for monitoring progress of the State CTE Plan, the mission of CTE within Alaska's education and workforce development systems, and reviews the status of new and ongoing CTE initiatives and partnerships.

In September of 2010 the AWIB was awarded two grants. A \$150,000 planning grant was received from the Department of Health and Human Services that will be utilized to complete further development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB in May 2010. A Disability Employment Initiative grant was received from the U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$2,727,000 to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. An update on both grants will be provided at the February AWIB meeting.

On October 25th and 26th, 2010 the AWIB meeting was held at the University of Alaska, Board of Regents Conference Room in Fairbanks. The agenda included an update on the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan and Implementation, Regional Training Centers, Regional Advisory Councils, Health Workforce Development Plan, and activities of the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP). The AWIB conducted an election of officers and Jim Lynch was elected Chair, and Michelle Zenger elected Vice-Chair. Nominations for the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instructor/Administrator of the Year and Post-Secondary CTE Instructor/Administrator of the Year were opened on October 28, 2010. Nominations for both awards must come from a business or industry, and will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 2010. The 2011 AWIB Calendar was finalized and the next AWIB meeting will be held on February 22nd and 23rd, 2011 in Juneau. Future AWIB meeting dates were also set for May 24th and 25th, 2011 and October 25th and 26th, 2011.

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Board of Regents Approve the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan

Fred Villa, Vice President of Academic Affairs for Workforce Programs, University of Alaska Statewide



On September 24, 2010 in Juneau, the University of Alaska Board Of Regents unanimously passed a motion that "supports the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan and the cooperative efforts of the Departments of Education and Early Development and Labor and Workforce Development with the University of Alaska". The Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Alaska State Board of Education have passed similar measures.

Commissioners Larry Ledoux (EED) and Click Bishop (DOLWD) provided testimony in support of the plan during the Board of Regents meeting. The three state agencies have worked closely with statewide input, to develop a plan that recognizes the value of aligning programs and efforts that compliment the resources available to assist all students in the area of career and technical education. Key strategies in the plan include: student transitions, aligning educational and industry standards, providing accessible educational opportunities, developing and retaining CTE teachers, maximizing use of public facilities, and establishing funding mechanisms to sustain career and technical education. Special recognition was given to Helen Mehrkens (EED) and Jeff Selvey (DOLWD) for their dedication in leading this CTE Plan development.

Now is the time to implement the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan. Your input and collaboration is needed to implement the plan.

Alaska Performance Scholarship Update

Beth Leschper, DOLWD Communications Director



Members of Alaska's high school graduating class of 2011 may qualify for a new Alaska Performance Scholarship by graduating with five or more credits of math and science, having a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher and scoring at least 21 on the ACT test or 1450 on the SAT exam. Students pursuing a career and technical education certificate program may substitute WorkKeys scores of 5 or higher instead of the ACT or SAT.

The State Board of Education & Early Development approved regulations recently that finalize the curriculum requirements for the 2011 class. Curriculum requirements are being phased in beginning with the 2011 class and are proposed to be fully implemented by 2013. Current high school freshmen and sophomores should prepare to take the full curriculum, including:



- four years of English;
- four years of social studies; and
- either four years each of math and science, or three years each of math; and science, plus two years of a foreign or Alaska Native language.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship will provide annual awards of up to \$4,755 to qualifying high school graduates who choose to pursue university or career and technical training in Alaska. Actual scholarship amounts will be based on GPAs and test scores.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship was created in 2010, after being proposed by Governor Parnell and passed into law by the Alaska Legislature. The 2011-12 program funding level will be determined no later than May 1, 2011. The program aims to improve Alaska's student performance and future opportunities by incentivizing parents and students to go beyond the minimum required for a high school diploma.

"An Alaska Performance Scholarship does not merely help families pay education expenses. The process of earning the scholarship prepares students to do well in postsecondary schooling and complete their certificate or degree," said Alaska Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux. "The Alaska Performance Scholarship challenges students to take a rigorous curriculum in high school, and it challenges communities to provide this curriculum in their schools."

For more information, including current funding status, detailed eligibility requirements and how to apply, go online to the [Alaska scholarship](#) page.

More Information Online

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Alaska Performance Scholarship Fact Sheet](#)

Alaska Tech Prep

Diane Maples, Alaska Tech Prep Consortium Statewide Coordinator



Alaska Tech Prep is a school-to-careers strategic partnership that facilitates seamless educational opportunities for students to enter and grow in a competitive workforce. Alaska Tech Prep is an investment at each level, one student at a time. Linking high school to a postsecondary program in a career field, students can simultaneously earn high school and postsecondary credit or advanced standing in an apprenticeship program. Students stand to gain an industry credential, occupational endorsement, certificate or associate degree in a career field or a

federally recognized apprenticeship.

In alignment with the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan strategies, taking that next step includes articulating lower-division academic and career and technical education (CTE) courses based on a program of study. This strategy fortifies a seamless system providing multiple entrance and exit points.

Below are some of the benefits for Alaskan students:

- greater high school graduation rates;
- equity in access in rural and low income areas;
- rise in postsecondary institution attendance;
- meaningful education;
- postsecondary completion and/or attaining an industry credential;
- continuation with the same postsecondary partner;
- transition simplification from one institution to another;
- decrease in remediation and increase in students' grade point average;
- decrease in time and money needed to complete a college degree;
- increased awareness of postsecondary options, including apprenticeship; and
- increased job placement.

Additionally, below are some of the benefits for Alaskan educators and workforce:

- greater number of rigorous courses;
- alignment of secondary and postsecondary curriculum ;
- strengthened collaboration between secondary, postsecondary and Alaska's workforce;
- increase in retention of students in Alaskan jobs, postsecondary education and training programs; and
- a skilled labor pool is developed through work- based programs, including apprenticeship, and training in technical, academic and soft skills.

Taking this next step is a conscious strategy in reinforcing the State's effort to provide seamless transitions for student into adulthood.

Please visit the Alaska Tech Prep website (<http://www.alaska.edu/techprep/>) to determine how you may become more involved in supporting and promoting Alaska Tech Prep in Alaska.

Youth Council and Workforce Investment Act

Mike Shiffer, DOLWD DBP Assistant Director



The Division of Business Partnerships' Alaska Youth First Program is changing the way Alaskan students view the challenges awaiting them in the job market. In 2010, the Alaska Youth First Program funded 18 Career Guides throughout the state. These Career Guides, working with Job Centers and school districts, reached out to more than 30,000 youth and their families. Career Guides are able to provide the latest labor market information on high-growth, high-demand industry jobs in Alaska and show Alaskan youth the pathways leading to those jobs.

One of the best economic development strategies the state can support is the preparation of Alaskan youths for Alaskan careers. Businesses flourish in areas with plenty of resources, including human resources. Career guides offer Alaskan youth a first look at opportunities in Alaska and how to access those opportunities. Career guides recognize that future employment opportunities will require some post secondary education or training. They also know that staying in school and graduating from high school is an important prerequisite to future training and opportunities. Careers guides seek to help Alaska's youth and their parents navigate the career path between school and employment.

The Youth First Program also funds the Teacher Industry Externship (TIE) Program. This program is designed to create an environment where educators would learn about high-growth, high-demand industry careers. In 2010, the program provided two week externships to 46 teachers/educators who gained on the job training experience in places like: the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Energy Services, the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and the Tesoro Refinery. These teachers are then able to incorporate their real life experiences into the class rooms and their curricula. The TIE program teachers have the potential to reach hundreds of students across the state. Career awareness and work maturity skills are two areas of professional development where Alaska excels at providing quality information and experiences. Thousands of Alaska's youth need these caring adults that are invested in their future and the future of Alaska.

The TIE program is an extension of the information offered by Career Guides. The more teachers can connect their curriculum to real Alaskan opportunities the more likely youth will understand these opportunities in Alaska. From middle school through high school and beyond, youth are asking questions about their future. Alaska has much to offer and Career Guides can chart a clear path to that opportunity so more youth will remain in Alaska, or return after receiving post secondary education or training. Youth are the human resource that must be developed to meet the needs of industry. Decisions made by young people today will influence the economic vitality of Alaska.

Gasline Training Update

Gerry Andrews, Gasline Training Administrator and Apprenticeship Coordinator



The Alaska Gasline Inducement Act of 2007 states that "the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall develop a job training program that will provide training for Alaskans in gas pipeline project management, construction, operations, maintenance and other gas pipeline related positions" (AS 43.90.470). The Alaska Workforce Investment Board is collaborating with other state departments, crafts, trades, industry, and education providers in developing a training system to build a gas pipeline.

The Gasline Training Committee meets on a regular basis, and met recently in Fairbanks on October 27th. The committee heard from the two pipeline projects, Denali Pipeline and The Alaska Pipeline Project. Representatives from both projects reported on the projected occupations needed to build a gas line. The numbers of occupations reported by the pipeline companies were impressive and recognized by most committee members as attainable. Alaska must have a system in place for talent development to insure pathways to the occupations of the project for Alaskans and to develop a skilled workforce. This system is identified and developed in the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan and the Gasline Training Plan.

The Gasline Training Committee had the opportunity to participate in a pipe welding dedication ceremony, connecting the first two joints of the X-70 training pipe at the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center. The next step for the Gasline Training Committee is to continue the implementation of the Gasline Training Plan and developing sub committees which will identify implementation strategies.

Growing Our Own Educators Through UA Program

UA@Work Writer

Many people know that UA offers degree programs to train Alaska's future educators. But not everyone knows that UA is also developing the next generation of Alaska's educators by working with K-12 students - especially Alaska Native youth in rural communities - through the Future Educators of Alaska (FEA) program.

FEA was established in 2003 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and has received two additional three-year grants since then. It is administered within the UA Statewide Academic Affairs Office of K-12 Outreach, in partnership with the Alaska Teacher Placement and Alaska Native Education Association.



Duane Heyman,
Executive Director,
UA Corporate
Programs

"The main goal of FEA is to grow our own educators through a club model. Our approach uses engaging club activities to encourage Alaska Native students in K-12 schools across Alaska to go into the education profession," says Sonta Hamilton Roach, FEA director.

[Click here to read entire article.](#)